

6-24-99

## FACT SHEET

### **NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS (NESHAP): GROUP I POLYMERS AND RESINS AND GROUP IV POLYMERS AND RESINS; DIRECT FINAL RULE AND PARALLEL PROPOSAL; NOTICE OF STAY**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to stay the compliance dates for existing affected sources and new affected sources with an initial start-up date on or after March 9, 1999, which are subject to the Group I Polymers and Resins and Group IV Polymers and Resins National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) requirements for all emission points except equipment leaks. This stay would remain in effect until the significant amendments to these rules (proposed in March 1999) are finalized and promulgated, at which point the EPA will publish new compliance dates for these affected sources.
- ◆ EPA is proposing this stay because final action on proposed amendments to the 1996 air toxics regulations for Group I and IV Polymers and Resins is not likely to occur before affected sources are required to comply with these original rules (September 5, 1999, and September 12, 1999, respectively). The stay would keep owners and operators of affected sources from having to spend resources to comply with a regulation that EPA knows will soon be significantly changed.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- ◆ Under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. (Note that this list originally contained 189 pollutants, but EPA has subsequently removed the chemical caprolactum from the list.) On July 16, 1992, EPA published a list of industrial source categories that emit one or more of these air toxics. For listed categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons/year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons/year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution controls, known as maximum achievable control technology (MACT). EPA's published list of industry groups (known as "source categories") to be regulated includes Group I and IV Polymers and Resins.
- ◆ On September 5, 1996, EPA issued the final air toxics rule for the Group I Polymers and Resins sources which included a compliance date of September 5, 1999 for all emission points except equipment leaks. On September 12, 1996, EPA issued the final air toxics rule for the Group IV Polymers and Resins sources which included a compliance date of September 12, 1999 for all emission points except equipment leaks. These rules were based on maximum achievable control technology (MACT) as defined by the Clean Air

Act.

- ◆ On March 9, 1999, EPA proposed amendments to the air toxics regulations for Group I and Group IV Polymers and Resins resulting from a settlement agreement with the Dow Chemical Company. The public comment period for this proposal closed May 10, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

- ◆ Interested parties can download the direct final stay notice and parallel proposal notice from EPA's web site on the Internet under "recent actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. In addition, the notice can be obtained from the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, by telephone (202) 260-7548 or by electronic mail, [a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov). The docket number is A-92-44 for Group I Polymers and Resins.
- ◆ The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's home page on the Internet contains a wide range of information on air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.
- ◆ For questions on the stay notice, contact Mr. Robert Rosensteel of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5608.